

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 99-02-08**

Date Prepared: February 4, 1999  
For Work Week Commencing: February 8, 1999  
Business Meeting: February 8, 1999, 2:00 p.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. MDU – USBC for Montana Dakota Utilities – Discussion on treatment of MDU's Universal System Benefits Charge (2/09/99)
2. N99.2.19 – Mountain Water – Discuss filing by Mountain Water (2/09/99)
3. D98.8.192 – USWC – Final avoided cost and pricing etc. docket for USWC – Placeholder to discuss the results of the 2/5/99 procedural schedule (2/09/99)
4. N98.12.284 – USWC "Introduction to Centrex Prime" – Discuss and act on filing (2/09/99)
5. D98.4.86 – USWC application to implement IntraLATA Dialing Parity – Discuss and act on USWC's 1+IntraLATA Dialing Parity Cost Issued (2/09/99)

6. D98.10.229 – Northern Telephone Cooperative's Implementation of 1+Dialing Parity – Discuss and act on Northern's motion to close docket (2/09/99)
7. L-99.1.1-RUL – Emergency anti-slamming rulemaking – Act on emergency rulemaking draft (2/09/99)
8. N98.10.241 – USWC flexible pricing docket for Sidney and Fairview – Action or direction on filing (2/09/99)

Legislative Meeting – Will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the day of the Business Meeting.

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 1:45 p.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.1.9 (Bonnie)

On January 22, 1999, US West filed Tariff Transmittal 99-04, Price List pages which introduce a CustomChoice promotion to run from February 15, 1999 through March 26, 1999. During the period, customers who order CustomChoice will be sent a coupon. If the customer fills out the coupon and returns it, along with a copy of their bill showing CustomChoice on it, they will be sent a check for \$20.00.

2. RONAN TELEPHONE CO. – Docket N99.1.13 (Kate)

On January 25, 1999, Ronan Telephone Co. filed proposed tariff revisions to: update its Low Income Telephone Assistance program; to delete obsolete references to mileage charges; to revise its pay telephone tariff to delete the coin rate, which is no longer regulated, and to remove rates for toll, which the company does not provide; and to revise its access service tariff.

3. Cherry Communications Incorporated, WAXS, Inc. Maxxis Group, Inc. Maxxis Communications, Inc. -- Docket N99.1.15 (Leroy)

On January 26, Cherry Communications Incorporated, WAXS, Inc. Maxxis Group, Inc. and Maxxis Communications, Inc filed a joint application for approval of Acquisition of Assets and for Assignment of Authorization to provide intrastate long distance services in Montana. Assets of CCI and WAXS will be purchased by Maxxis Group, Inc. Maxxis' Group, Inc. will transfer of certain assets to Maxxis Communications, Inc.

4. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.1.10 (Vicki)

On January 22, 1999, US West filed tariff pages to remove SingleNumber Service (SNS) from their tariff. SNS provides a single telephone number to business customers with multiple business locations. Calls are routed to a specific business location based on the calling party's zip code. There are no customers subscribing to this service

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MONTANA POWER COMPANY DOCKET NO. D99.1.16 (Eric)

On January 28, 1998, MPC filed for authority to issue and sell up to \$150,000,000 principal amount of new unsecured long-term debt in the form of medium term notes (MTNs) through and including December 31, 2000. In Docket No. D96.11.189, Order No. 5957, the Commission authorized MPC to sell \$150,000,000 of unsecured MTNs before December 31, 1998. MPC has issued about \$115,000,000 of those notes. The Company wishes to extend the authorization for those notes through December 31, 2000.

2. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.1.14 (Bonnie)

On January 26, 1999, US West filed an amended Tariff Transmittal 98-45 which adds a competitive price for Centrex 21 in the pending flexible pricing application for Sidney, Montana. The filing also includes an introduction promotion which waives installation and conversion charges for 90 days after PSC approval of the competitive zone pricing for Sidney customers subscribing to Centrex 21.

Staff suggests that this docket be consolidated with N98.10.241, Tariff transmittal 98-45, USWC's proposal to add competitive zone pricing in the Sidney and Fairview area. The PSC has received objections to that docket.

3. US WEST Communications Docket N99.2.20 (Kate)

On February 2, 1999, US WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 99-06, re-filing with revisions the Residential Win-Back offering, introducing a competitive response strategy for residential customers who have left USWC and have service with another local service provider. Such customers will be eligible for waivers of non-recurring charges and/or monthly service charges if they choose to return to USWC for their local service.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-02-16**

USWC – Tariff 99-06 for Residential Win-Back offering

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

D99.1.16 – MPC – Application for authority for sale of securities

N99.1.17 – Citizens Communications – Tariff revisions & price lists

D99.1.18 – FirsTel, Inc. – Local exchange service tariff waiver request

N99.2.19 – Mountain Water – Tariff filing for cross connection program

N99.2.20 – USWC – Tariff 99-06 Introduce Residential WinBack

D99.2.21 – USWC – Kern vs USWC complaint